

### REMARKS

The present application was filed on July 31, 2000 with claims 1-14. Claims 7 and 9 are canceled herein. Claims 1-6, 8 and 10-14 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 and 12-14 are the independent claims.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

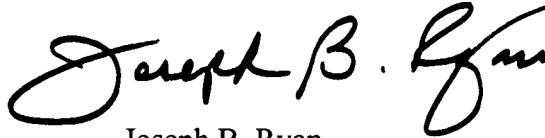
Applicants have amended each of independent claims 1 and 12-14 to include limitations similar to those of originally-filed dependent claims 7 and 9, now canceled. Basically, the independent claims have been amended to recite that the post-frequency-assignment optimization stage is configured to utilize derivative-based optimization of a specified objective function in order to determine a particular network configuration for specified values of network capacity and network coverage. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, page 5, lines 6-8, page 12, lines 1-11, and page 20, lines 9-15.

In rejecting dependent claims 7 and 9, the Examiner relies on steps 3402-3411 of FIG. 34 and column 13, lines 1-19, of U.S. Patent No. 6,023,459 (hereinafter "Clark"). However, the relied-upon portions fail to teach or suggest the use of derivative-based optimization of an objective function to determine a particular network configuration for specified values of network capacity and network coverage. More specifically, the FIG. 34 process of Clark fails to teach the use of optimization of an objective function based on one or more mathematical derivatives, and the teachings at column 13, lines 1-19, of Clark apparently make mention of network capacity, but fail to disclose the claimed determination of a particular network configuration for specified values of network capacity and network coverage.

Dependent claims 2-6, 8, 10 and 11 are believed allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from independent claim 1. One or more of these claims are also believed to define additional separately-patentable subject matter relative to Clark and the other art of record.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1-6, 8 and 10-14 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph B. Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" and last name "Ryan" clearly legible.

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